LJ - Withholdings in C.A.75-1996 and re my PA requests HW 8/20/78

I received, in stages but still incompletely, false records generated by the FBI after I reported what Stoner had told me about FBI informers trying to induce him to acts of racial violence. Compliance is incomplete under both requests. Several of the records only were delivered by the FBI, including an Internal Security Division memo. No records were provided from the files of those to whom copies were sent. I have not received response to my repeated requests for full compliance. There has been no action of which I am aware on the appeal.

After receiving the original records and being shocked at what the FBI had done I went through my own records, because I remembered the corruped incident clearly, and sent the FBI (John Hartingh) contemporaneous records proving that the FBI had fabricated what it then disseminated, as I recall to all the AGs and Deputies thereafter in connection with my FOIA requests. I believe that this fabrication was instrumental in the Department's decision, which is apparent, to endorse the FBI's decision not to comply with my requests. I know that once I started proving that all the FBI's vicious records relating to me were entirely false or deliberately distorted the providing of records ceased entirely. Since then I have provided repeated proofs of the existence of records that a ter going on three years remain withheld.

The attached story from today's Washington Post bears on all of this. It recounts that the FBI had responsibility for the assaults on Freedom Riders in Alabama.

(Parenthetically, a former network reporter told me late last night, when we were discussing other matters, that two years ago his network knew the story of FBI Informer Rowe and of the then ongoing police investigation and opted not to report or look into it.)

Because I believe all of this is relevant to non-compliance I add more information for the Shea office and for any use you consider proper in court in C.A. 75-1996.

At the time there was a federal neutrality act indictment for planned invasion of Haiti, about the summer of 1969, Lil and I were in Washington. We had stopped off to visit with friends, Louis and Diana Herrmann. Louis was the butler for the late Lily Vogel (A Lewisohn and quite a social figure in Washington, well connected politically) and Diana the secretary. Actually, they were much more because the old lady required much looking after and protection, as did her family. When Louis referred to the current news of the indictment I told him of having taped interviews with Hemming and Howard in which they laid out their plans for invading Haiti. Louis suggested that I tell DJ, so I used his phone to call Criminal Division, which appeared to be a bit excited. It asked me to await a callback. When they did call they asked me to keep a 2 p.m. appointment at ISD. Lil and I did. Contrary to what the FBI's fictions say the lawyer I spoke to was excited and asked if he could come up on Monday. I had told him the local RA could have whatever I had because the stuff was not confidential but he said he wanted to come up. I knew none of the details of the indictment so I asked for a copy of it. In the course of this, because the Stoner call was then recent, I also told ISD that the Department should be aware of the acts of FBI informers as represented to me by Stoner. This, of course, was before we knew there was such an incredible operation as Cointelpro.

There is little doubt in my mind that the vigor and extremity of the FBI's reaction accounts for the ISD lawyer never coming and that to protect Cointelpro it had to take some such extreme course as its vicious fabrications about me.

The passing of time has not relieved what bothers the FBI because for part of the period of these extreme activities in Birmingham and Alabama Clarence Kelley was SAC there. (From there, as I recll, he went to Memphis, pr the other way around, as SAC.)

What this story includes about Eugene Bull Connor also is not new. What it means is that the man who was later head of the FBI had to have had involvements with Connor. Kelley was Director at the time the 1996 case was filed and during its earlier stages.

Connor was investigated by the Senate committee for which I worked in 1937. As I now recall the relevant testimony is in the third volume of hearings as I printed them. The investigation was of the brutal, almost fatal flogging of a college professor named Joe Gelders. Gelders was for educating blacks and other similar subversions. Connors, as I now recall, then was director of security or whatever they called the chief cop of a U.S.Steel subsidiary, Tennessee Coal & Iron. His major function was to prevent unionization. Connor was responsible for this and other floggings and I believe was a sadistic participant. In any event, there was no secret from anyone in the Alabama FBI about Connor's past, regardless of what he was up to contemporaneously.

As the Post story shows, the FBI was working with such people during the Freedom Rides. Actually, from what Stoner told me and since has been partly confirmed, it was worse. The FBI was giving such stuff to Al Lingo, then head of the Alabama highway patrol or whatever the State police is called. He also was a virulent racist. He was friendly with Stoner. So he showed Stoner the FBI reports on him, which made identification of the FBI's informers simple for Stoner.

And all of these people were very much involved in operations against King as well as investigations relating to the assassination. FBI and local police both.

(If the figleaf of Hoover's diatribe against King is true, that most southern SAs were not southern born, it is irrelevant because they were anti-black, which was King's point.)

It is my recollection that there are large and significant voids in the records from the Birmingham and Atlanta Field Offices. The FBI had both from Huie and from what he published what Ray had written Huie via Arthur Hanes. Huie gave the FBI what he did not publish. This is to say information from Ray that was not in Look. One example is of current interest from Ray's testimony before the House assassins. This example is that the man he calls Raoul (he calls him Rqual)was registered at the TraveLodge Motel in Birmingham. I recall no investigation to identify this person or his vehicle. Likewise in New Orleans, there was investigation of Raul Esquivel for periods of time when Ray was not in New Orleans, not when Ray was there. How my reporting of Esquivel in Frame-Up is accurate in that it recounts precisely what Perry Cohen had from Charlie Stein. However, Stein did not level fully with Cohen. He did not get the phone number when he saw Ray use a pay phone en route to N.O. from Los Angeles. He got the phone number from Ray in Ray's own writing when, as you know typically for Ray, Ray wrote a number for Stein on the back of that slip of paper. No records provided relate to any Esquivel investigation as of that period of time or when Ray later returned on the trip on which King was killed. Yet there had been civil rights complaints made against Esquivel, a State trooper. (The possibility of a link similar to those in Alabama cannot be entirely ignored if there is no proof of it. Similar incidents were plentiful in La., where among those not bothered by the FBI were the Leander Perezes. He was ex-communicated over them.)

So, I believe there i s FBI motive for its continued withholding, which extends to the Department.

It may interest you to know that it was about the time of the Gelders/Connor hearing that Hugo Black's sister, Virginia Durr became intensely interested in the committee's work. She attended the hearings, read the galley proofs and asked me to explain the meaning of hearings almost daily after they ended. She was the driving force behind the anti-poll tax drive. She wanted me to head that group. I opted instead for the anti-Nazi work, especially on cartels, that I did in that period after the committee. Her husband, the late Cliff Durr, was involved with King and was Rosa Park's white lawyer. Cliff broke with Truman over the "loyalty" program and returned to Ala. to represent clients who had trouble getting lawyers.